

MINUTES
WEST HARTFORD BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 14, 2014
WEST HARTFORD TOWN HALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. in Room 314.

At the meeting, the following matters were discussed.

1. Scott Franklin stated that Senator Beth Bye has been able to obtain from the Legislature a \$71,000 appropriation to fund a feasibility study for putting North Main Street between Bishop's Corner and West Hartford Center on a road diet, reducing it to one travel lane in each direction with a turn lane in the middle and bicycle lanes on both sides. As a committee, we will need to do a significant amount of neighborhood outreach to make sure that the community understands the plan.
2. Kevin Vicha discussed the Bike to Town Thursday Program. The plan is a weekly program during the summer to get people to ride their bikes to different business establishments in town. The first event will be held on Thursday, May 1, at 6:30 p.m. at Pinkberry's. We are still looking for people to serve as the host for each of the Thursday programs. The function of the host is simply to greet the cyclists, thank them for coming and tell them a little bit about our organization. We are hopeful that each of the destination points will agree to give gift certificates or discounts to the people who show up on bicycles. If you have any ideas for locations for these events, or if you would like to serve as a host, please let me know.
3. Scott Franklin mentioned that he had spoken with Helen Rubino-Turco about the possibility of joining with the owner of Evert on Monday evening, July 14 (Bastille Day) to shut down South Main Street and make it a bicycle/pedestrian way. More information will be forthcoming.
4. Mary Collins reported on the status of the West Hartford Bicycle Festival which is scheduled for Sunday, June 15, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. We already have 30 vendors who have agreed to have booths at the event and we are in the process of arranging for at least two bike rides during the day. The first will be a bike down main event starting at Marshall's shopping center at 9:30 and continuing to the West Hartford Town Parking lot. Please watch the local newspapers and listservs for more information about this great event.
5. Scott Franklin presented a report of a possible free bike program in West Hartford. Scott and Jeff Ferraro had recently visited the Simsbury Free Bike Organization on Iron Horse Blvd in Simsbury. We are looking for a business location to host this event. We will provide the bicycles, the bicycle maintenance, the liability forms and the sign-up forms. This program has been extremely successful in Simsbury and we hope to replicate it in West Hartford. If

you know a location that would work, preferably one that is open for business on Saturdays and Sundays, please let me know.

6. Daniel Johnson presented an updated report on crowd funding. We are hoping to raise \$10,000 through this on-line effort which will culminate at the West Hartford Bicycle Festival on June 15.

7. A lengthy discussion was had regarding the response of the West Hartford Town Engineer's Office to our letter dated December 11, 2013. It was agreed that the community input/advocacy committee will call a meeting within the next 2 to 3 weeks to come up with specific responses to the Town Engineer's letter. All members of the committee and all who are on our email list are invited to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott B. Franklin, Chair
West Hartford Bicycle Advisory Committee